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This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (currently amended): A method for monitoring for an early signaling event in an inflammatory response cascade in a patient comprising:

- a) contacting a biological sample obtained from the <u>a</u> patient known to have or suspected of having been exposed to an <u>inflammatory stimulus</u> with a CD163 capture antibody to form a CD163-antibody complex; and
- b) contacting the CD163-antibody complex with a CD163 detection antibody;
 - c) detecting CD163 levels in the biological sample; and
- d) determining whether there is a detectable elevation in the level of CD163 within 1 to 12 hours of exposure to the inflammatory stimulus thereby monitoring to monitor an early signaling event in the inflammatory response cascade in the patient.

Claim 2 (previously presented): The method of claim 1 wherein the CD163 capture antibody is MAC2-158 or MAC2-48.

Claim 3 (original): The method of claim 1 wherein the biological sample is human plasma.